Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 JUSE-00 CTME-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-15 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 OIC-02 /169 W

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P 221823Z MAY 78 FM USMISSION GENEVA TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9972 INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

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USMTN, USEEC
ACTION STR PASS ELECTRICALLY
STR PASS CODEL

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: MTN. ETRD. EEC

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL EC VIEWS ON U.S. TARIFF OFFER

1. ON MAY 17 USMTN DEL (MCNAMARA ET AL) MET WITH EC COMMISSION DEL AND MEMBER STATES LED BY DUGIMONT FOR DISCUSSION OF U.S. REQUESTS OF EC FOR MAINTENANCE OF FORMULA OFFER ON CERTAIN ITEMS IN EC'S POSSIBLE WITHDRAWAL LIST (REPORT ON THIS PART OF SESSION FOLLOWS SEPTEL). AT END OF DISCUSSION DUGIMONT MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON UNCERTAINTIES SURROUNDING U.S. OFFER:

(A) U.S. OFFER HAS YET TO BE EXPRESSED IN LEGAL TERMS. THE EC DOES NOT KNOW -- AND IS ANXIOUS TO LEARN -- EXACT OFFER RATES FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE-THIRD OF ALL TSUS LINE ITEMS, I.E., THOSE ITEMS WITH SPECIFIC OR COMPOUND DUTIES. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON COMPOUND RATES, WILL REDUCTION APPLY TO SPECIFIC OR AD VALOREM PORTION AND IF BOTH, IN WHAT PROPORTION? EC WAS DISTURBED NOT TO LEARN OF U.S. INTENT TO CONSIDER CONVERSION OF ALL RATES TO AD VALOREM UNTIL JANUARY 23. EC TAKES POSITION THAT IF A COUNTRY WISHES TO MAKE SUCH A CONVERSION IT SHOULD KEEP FORMER RATES AS LEGAL MAXIMUM OR FOLLOW NORMAL GATT PROCEDURES.

- (B) U.S. OFFER ON NUMEROUS "TO BE SPECIFIED" ITEMS REMAINS UNCERTAIN. ASIDE FROM QUESTION OF RATE CONVERSIONS (E.G., ASP ITEMS) AND NOMENCLATURE REVISIONS (E.G., CERAMIC DINNERWARE), CAN U.S. PROVIDE SOME INDICATION OF PROBABLE NATURE OF EVENTUAL U.S. OFFER ON THESE ITEMS IN ADVANCE OF COMPLETION OF USITC STUDIES? (C) WHEN WILL U.S. PROVIDE DEFINITIVE RESPONSE TO EC REQUESTS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN U.S. OFFER?
- 2. USMTN DELEGATION INDICATED THAT USITC HAD AGREED TO COMPLETE ADVISORY STUDIES BY JUNE 1, AND THAT EXECUTIVE BRANCH WOULD MAKE DECISIONS SHORTLY THEREAFTER. ON QUESTION OF EXPRESSING U.S. OFFER IN LEGAL FORMAT, WE NOTED THAT PROBLEMS OF ROUNDING WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO BE RESOLVED FIRST. ON TIMING OF U.S. RESPONSE TO EC REQUESTS, WE INDICATED THAT WASHINGTON IS CURRENTLY WDRKING ON THEM BUT THAT EC TABLING OF POSSIBLE WITHDRAWAL LIST HAS COMPLICATED OUR WORK.
- 3. DRAFTED BY ST. MAXENS. MCDONALD

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